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SUBJECT: EU HI-REP SOLANA PROPOSES EU INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS  
INCLUDE INTERNAL THREATS

REF: USEU BRUSSELS 1338

Classified By: USEU/POL: Harry O'Hara, reasons 1.4 b and d

1. (C/NF) Summary: At the EU Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) June 8 meeting, Council Hi-Rep Javier Solana said he would call on leaders at next week's European Council to extend the scope of the EU Situation Center (SitCen) from external threats to internal threats within the EU. Solana Cabinet member and intelligence advisor William Shapcott (please protect) told us that he expects the Council to approve the recommendation and to start implementation soonest. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) EU Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) on June 8 prepared for next week's discussion by EU leaders as a follow-up to their March Declaration on combating terrorism. This involved consideration (in restricted session) of a number of reports requested by the leaders last March as part of the EU's response to the Madrid attacks. EU Council Secretary-General/CFSP High Rep Solana presented his report

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on terrorism and intelligence cooperation. Speaking at a joint press conference with EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator de Vries following his presentation to ministers, Solana said he was calling to build on existing cooperation within the EU Joint SitCen located within the Council Secretariat.

3. (C/NF) Shapcott, who also heads the SitCen, told us of his overall staff of 65, seven analysts cover terrorist threats. He said that he and Solana expect the Council of Ministers to support the expansion of coverage to internal threats next week. When this happens, Shapcott plans to increase the number of terrorist analysts to 18. He also hopes to bring in more member-states reps into the SitCen. Currently, analysts are seconded from UK, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden. As an aside, he said that the SitCen would be "similar to that of INR" (he noted his visit to INR in 2002) in that it would do analysis, not collection, based on intelligence and analysis coming from the member-states.

4. (SBU) Solana proposed that the SitCen should henceforth be able to analyze input on internal threats to the EU based on the input and staff from the Interior Ministries of the Member States. Solana described the proposed mechanism as "very simple," saying, "It can be very efficient and implemented very rapidly." The enlarged body would have communication links with EUROPOL and would be able to draw from the existing EU Counter-Terrorism Group that assembles the chiefs of intelligence agencies of the EU countries. Solana described his proposal as "a first but important step".

5. (C/NF) Shapcott compared this step with US intelligence analysis now including material from the FBI. He said that planning for this had started in February and had been expected to take a year to bring to fruition. He noted that as a result of the Madrid bombings, there was increased EU political pressure to move quickly to "tear down the invisible wall" between the EU and the rest of the world. He said that the EU needs to respond to a "logic of terrorism" that does not recognize borders.

6. (U) A summary of Solana's presentation to the ministers subsequently released by the Council (full text forwarded to EUR/ERA) notes that the heads of the security services of the Member States have given their support to the Solana proposal. The paper highlights three core ideas on which Solana will seek the backing of EU leaders:

-- Moves by the heads of the EU's 25 security services to meet as a group on a regular basis the format of the existing Counter-Terrorist Group (CTG);

-- The work of the CTG would allow for closer analytical exchanges between Security Services and would provide scope for improved operational cooperation;

-- Moves by EUROPOL to reactivate its Counter-Terrorist

Task Force and efforts to improve the flow of criminal intelligence to EUROPOL.

17. (U) Solana said his proposal would allow for:

-- EU decision makers to be better informed, inter alia, about threats, terrorist methods, organization of terrorist groups, and thus better prepared to devise effective EU counter-terrorist policies;

-- Member States to receive better support from European bodies: They would get material from the EU's SitCen, and their police services in particular would get better support from EUROPOL;

-- Member States to retain the lead in the operational field, while working more closely together through CTG, EUROPOL, as well as through existing bilateral arrangements, to strengthen information exchange and cooperation.

18. (U) The Council also considered a draft report to the European Council on the implementation of the Declaration, which records progress made toward the adoption of implementation of a number of EU measures listed in the Declaration. EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator Gijs de Vries told the press conference a related draft Plan of Action on combating terrorism, to be presented to EU leaders next week, would identify a number of measures to be taken by the EU with specific targets for adoption of the proposal by the Commission and final endorsement by the Council. de Vries said the plan would offer a roadmap in the form of an 18-month rolling program for the upcoming EU Presidencies that could be adopted every six months.

19. (U) de Vries also presented two other reports, one dealing with peer evaluation and the other dealing with ways to improve the speed of implementation of legislative measures adopted by the Council. Another report from EUROJUST (EU Prosecutors' Office) contains recommendations to improve the capacity of EUROJUST to contribute to the fight against terrorism. In addition, the Council adopted the EUROPOL work program for 2005 that takes account of the objective of reinforcing the role of EUROPOL in the fight against terrorism.

10. (U) The Council adopted conclusions on the follow-up to the Declaration. These also note the report on the terrorist attacks in Madrid prepared by the Police Chiefs Task Force and the review undertaken by the same group on how their operational capacity should be reinforced to focus on proactive intelligence. Full text has been transmitted to EUR/ERA.

Comment  
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11. (C/NF) Solana's proposals are an attempt to bridge the gap between pillars 2 (foreign policy) and 3 (justice and home affairs). By consolidating national information in the SitCen, he hopes to build on the sort of multi-country synergies that led to the round-up of Islamic militants in several EU countries earlier this week. His proposal would still protect the basic principles of national competency in operational intelligence. Still the challenge for the SitCen -- to convince national security agencies in member-states to begin sharing more timely actionable intelligence -- remains.

Complicating Solana's efforts will be some member-state questions and concerns about sharing materials with all other EU members, Cyprus and Malta in particular.

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